

**DELTA PROTECTION COMMISSION**

14215 RIVER ROAD  
P.O. BOX 530  
WALNUT GROVE, CA 95690  
PHONE: (916) 776-2290  
FAX: (916) 776-2293



September 25, 1997

To: Delta Protection Commission

From: Margit Aramburu, Executive Director

Subject: Summary of Findings of Department of Parks and Recreation Recreational User Survey, August 1997

**BOATING SURVEY:**

- \* Most boats operated in the Delta are power boats (69%); with personal watercraft second (15%).
- \* Most of the power boats are between 16 and 20 ft in length.
- \* Most popular boating activities are: fishing from boat; cruising; water-skiing; and swimming from boat.
- \* Most boating takes place on Saturday and Sunday (50%).
- \* Most boating takes places from 8 am to 4 pm.
- \* Most boating takes place in May, June, July, August, and September. July is the most popular month.
- \* Most activities take place in Zones D (Contra Costa and lower Sacramento Counties); E (San Joaquin County); and C (Sacramento County between Courtland and Highway 12).
- \* Most popular activities in Zones A, B, C, D and E are: cruising and fishing from boat.
- \* Most popular activities in Zone F are water-skiing and cruising.

\* Zone D is most popular for: fishing from boat, water-skiing, sailing, cruising, hunting from a boat, swimming from a boat, sleeping on board a boat, launching a boat, operating a boat; followed by Zone E and Zone C.

\* Boating facilities deemed ADEQUATE: launch ramps; fuel docks; marinas; boat repair facilities, and dry boat storage.

\* Boating facilities deemed INADEQUATE: sewage pump-out facilities; courtesy docks; shoreline access; and public restrooms.

\* Other recreational activities popular with boaters include: sightseeing; viewing wildlife; fishing from shore; picnicking; walking; and swimming from shore.

\* Zones D, E and C most popular for: fishing from shore; swimming from shore; camping; viewing wildlife; photography of wildlife, sightseeing; attending special events, visiting cultural or historical sites; walking for pleasure; picnicking; and board sailing.

\* Hunting on land is popular in Zones D, E, and A.

\* Bicycling is popular in Zones D, A, and E.

\* Shortages identified included: public restrooms; swimming beaches; fishing piers; other fishing access; bicycle trails; hiking trails; and hunting areas.

\* Boaters came from (in order): Contra Costa; Sacramento; Alameda; Santa Clara; Los Angeles; San Joaquin, Stanislaus; Marin; Solano; and San Mateo Counties.

~~\* Half of the boaters traveled less than 50 miles; the average distance traveled was 74 miles.~~

\* Most groups were two people; 90% of groups were four or less.

\* Most boaters stayed one day.

\* 79% said they saw law enforcement patrol boats in the Delta.

\* Most reported little change in their use of the Delta in the last five years.

\* Those who do not recreate in the Delta said the Delta is too far from home.

\* Those who do not recreate in the Delta and live within a one hour drive said they are not familiar with Delta recreation opportunities.

## ANGLERS:

- \* Anglers fished from boats (88%) and from shore (74%). Anglers also participated in fishing tournaments (14%).
- \* Anglers fish on the week-ends; 29% on Saturday and 24% on Sunday.
- \* Over half fish in the morning hours (8 am to noon).
- \* Fishing occurs year-round; most fishing is April through October. Most popular months are August and September.
- \* For all fishing activity, most fishing occurs in Zone D (30% to 45%), followed by Zone E (about 20%) and Zone C (slightly less than 20%).
- \* Zone D was the most popular area for fishing from a boat and for fishing in a tournament.
- \* Few anglers use Zone A and Zone F; fewer anglers use Zone B.
- \* Zone F is the only area where there is more bank fishing than fishing from a boat.
- \* Anglers deemed the following fishing facilities as ADEQUATE: bait and tackle shops; public parking; boat launch ramps; and fuel docks.
- \* Anglers deemed the following fishing facilities as INADEQUATE: fishing piers; fish cleaning stations; other shore access points; and public restrooms.
- \* Other recreational activities popular with anglers are (in order of popularity): sightseeing; boating; viewing wildlife; swimming; walking for pleasure; and picnicking.
- \* Zones C, D, and E are the most popular areas for swimming; camping; boating; viewing wildlife; photography of nature; sightseeing; attending special events; walking; picnicking; and board sailing.
- \* Zone A is popular for bicycling (ranked second) and visiting cultural or historic sites (ranked third).
- \* Zone B is popular for hunting on land (ranked second).
- \* Zone F is popular for bicycling (ranked third).

\* Anglers deemed the following other recreational facilities ADEQUATE: marinas (overwhelming concurrence); camping; picnic sites; public parking; places to buy food; scenic vistas; wildlife vistas; and board sailing access.

\* Anglers deemed the following other recreational facilities INADEQUATE: public restrooms; swimming beaches; hiking trails; biking trails; and hunting areas.

\* Anglers came from (in order): Sacramento; San Joaquin; Alameda; Santa Clara; Solano; San Mateo; Placer; Los Angeles; Stanislaus; and Sonoma Counties.

\* Most anglers traveled less than 50 miles; the average distance traveled was 70.8 miles.

\* About half the angler groups consisted of two people; the average size of all groups was 2.9 persons.

\* Most anglers stayed only one day.

\* Over one-third of anglers fish at night.

\* Over three-quarters of anglers said they saw law enforcement patrol boats while in the Delta.

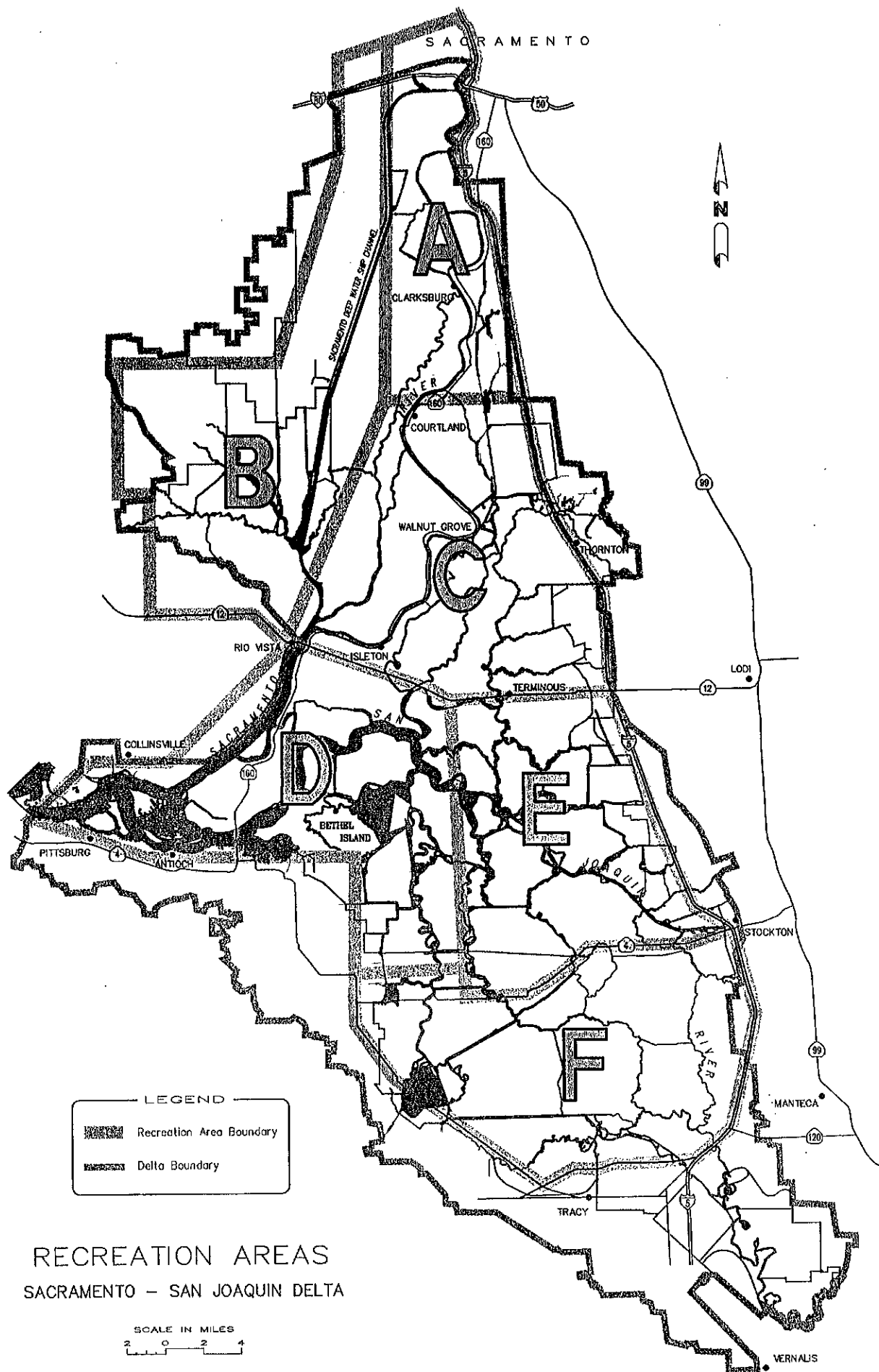
\* In the past five years, anglers indicated a decrease in participation in: fishing; swimming; board sailing; hunting (greatest decrease); camping; photography of nature; bicycling; and attending special events.

\* In the past five years, anglers indicated an increase in walking for pleasure and sightseeing.

~~\* In the past five years, anglers indicated the same levels of boating; picnicking; viewing wildlife; and visiting cultural or historical sites.~~

\* Those who do not fish in the Delta indicated it is too far from home or they were not familiar with Delta recreational opportunities.

#####



# RECREATION AREAS SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN DELTA